



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Leonard P. Guarente et al.

Art Unit : 1631

Serial No. : 09/826,752

Examiner : J. Brusca

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Title : GENES DETERMINING CELLULAR SENESENCE IN YEAST

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please cancel all pending claims and add new claims 13 to 31. The undersigned and Examiner Brusca agreed on this course of action in a telephonic interview on January 6, 2003.

Cancel claims 1-12.

Add claims 13-31 as follows:

-- 13. A method of identifying an agent that alters lifespan of a eukaryotic cell, the method comprising:

- a) providing a eukaryotic cell characterized by a first capacity for cell division;
- b) contacting the eukaryotic cell with an agent to provide a treated eukaryotic cell; and
- c) evaluating a phenotype of the treated eukaryotic cell,

wherein the phenotype (i) is correlated with capacity for mitotic division, (ii) is other than mitotic division itself, and (iii) is a function of stress survival, and wherein an alteration in the phenotype, relative to a corresponding phenotype of a eukaryotic cell not contacted with the agent, indicates the agent as an agent that alters lifespan.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the phenotype is a function of growth to higher saturation density than the cells provided in (a).

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I hereby certify under 37 CFR §1.8(a) that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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